

**Executive Committee for Highway Safety  
Lane Departure Working Group  
Meeting Minutes  
August 9, 2005 – Mtg. #8**

**Location:**

Transportation Management Center Conference Room, 1:00 p.m.

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

|                |              |              |                |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Steve Varnedoe | Tony Wyatt   | Roger Thomas | Jimmy Eatmon   |
| Terry Hopkins  | Brian Mayhew | Brad Hibbs   | Bucky Galloway |
| Kevin Lacy     | Cliff Braam  |              |                |

**Minutes:**

- The meeting began at approximately 1:10 p.m.

**Task I – Introduction of WG Co-Chair**

State Traffic Engineer J. K. Lacy introduced Field Operations and Investigations Engineer Tony Wyatt as Co-Chair for the working group. Tony's role will include assisting in putting together meeting agendas, conducting the meetings, organizing strategies and compiling and distributing official minutes with action items for the meetings.

**Task II – Review & Approval of Meeting 7 Minutes**

Committee Approved the Meeting 7 Minutes as Presented.

**Task III – Driver's Education**

There were ongoing discussions concerning driver's education programs and the need for a scientific controlled evaluation of a candidate rural High School with tracking of students through Drivers education and through graduation. There was some discussion that Jane Status may be pursuing a research proposal for this type of effort. Additional suggestion made to get additional background on Model International Approaches to Driver's Education and Requirements prior to securing a driver's license. Rob Foss was mentioned as being able to contribute some additional familiarity with what others countries programs include and how effective they may be.

**Lane Departure MEETING #8 ACTION ASSIGNMENT #1**

Brad Hibbs will contact FHWA's Beth Alicandri, (202) 366-6409 to get info on international driver's education programs (Germany, Australia, Sweden, & others) and will report back to group by next meeting (October 19, 2005).

## **Task IV – Strategy Development**

J. Kevin Lacy initiated a discussion of the “SAFETY EDGE” treatment. Reference made to Frank Julian’s efforts and Pooled Research efforts for pilot and evaluation. Pavement and construction folks have voiced concern over stability of surface and compaction over the sloped edge. Evaluations to date have been relatively short segment in GA and NY.

Bucky Galloway pointed out that current NCDOT Roadway Plans currently already show a 1:1 edge – however construction of that tapered edge is apparently not taking place. Pooled Fund Study is in 2<sup>nd</sup> Year. J. Kevin Lacy discussed how to retrofit and systemic approach for upgrading. Chairman Steve Varnedoe emphasized the need for adequate quality shoulders and felt that a CONTROLLED PILOT project would be the best next step. Bucky Galloway had drafted a Preliminary Strategy for the Safety Edge, which was distributed and briefly discussed. Discussion moved toward the need for the improved sealed shoulder and the tapered safety edge.

Some increasing interest and receptiveness to the concept from Pavement Management (Judith) and Construction (Wiley Jones). Chairman advised that we need some experience with the Safety Edge from a constructability point at least. Steve inquired as to where we were experiencing problems with drop offs. Some possible data available from Hargett and AG TORT Office. Roger inquired as to how to determine these problem locations.

Good Candidates for Pilot – Moving Ahead & W (Hazard Elimination) Projects. Longer segment preferred for evaluation of safety edge (15 to 20 miles).

Lane Departure Meeting #8 Action Assignment #2 – Wyatt and Mayhew to meet with Jeff Cox and Dan Keel to see what is programmed and to possibly identify some potential pilot Safety Edge project sites. Goal: meet prior to next meeting to report back to team (October 19, 2005).

Brad Hibbs indicated that Pooled Fund evaluation charge was to demonstrate “Prove it can be done and that it won’t fall apart.” Issues to address Constructability & Maintainability.

Need for BUY-IN, pick projects to try, Get critical Field Buy-In and get some on the Road.

Lane Departure Meeting Number #8 Action Assignment #3 – J. Kevin Lacy to research status of Pooled Fund Request and provide update to Team during next Meeting October 19, 2005.

Next Strategy Need Discussed – J. Kevin Lacy initiated a discussion on TREE involved crashes and Jimmy Eaton concurred and emphasized the issues with roadside trees. Don Lee’s groups initiatives on vegetative management (Color Canopy) were mentioned and Don was mentioned as a good potential team member considering the importance of roadside management to the Lane Departure issue.

Lane Departure Meeting Number #8 Action Assignment #4 – J. Kevin Lacy recommended development of a ROADSIDE TREE Strategy. Wyatt and Lacy to meet with Don Lee prior too October 19, 2005 (next LD meeting) to discuss issue and invite Don to attend next meeting.

Brad Hibbs mentioned upcoming one (1) day FHWA workshop coming to NC in late September – mentioned concerns with plantings/trees behind cable barrier.

Group Reviewed Photos of Split Centerline Rumblestrip utilized on US 421 project (between Sanford and Siler City. Some discussion of Bill Rosser raising issue: could we go to a milled RS under C/L to help with issues around maintaining/replacing RPMs? Group discussed the very impressive performance observed with recent POLYUrea installations. Discussion and concerns were voiced with the degree of variation between well marked sections of pavement and those with almost non-existent markings. Chairman Varnedoe presented concept of a LEVEL of SERVICE approach for pavement markings and delineation. Needs to become a Department Goal. Would need to be institutionalized.

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| Lane Departure Meeting Number #8 Action Assignment #5 – Brad Hibbs to secure Mississippi nighttime Rumblestripe VIDEO – from Frank Julian. If we can secure the tape we will review it during next meeting October 19, 2005. |
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Other Issues: Brad Hibbs inquired as to the status of previously submitted Combined Geometric Recommendations to the Executive Committee. Brad was concerned with follow-through on the variety of countermeasures/treatments. Possible item for next meeting – follow-up on how geometric recommendations are applied and can we see some progress in FIELD (on the ground).

Chairman Steve Varnedoe emphasized potential offered under HB 750. There were still eight (8) agency bills in Committee. Concept would be FY 06 (68m) transfer to SR's by % mileage. By 2010/2011 around 180m/year – new definition opens up flexibility w/o urban limits. Need for Demonstration sites and highly Visual Promotion.

IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE TARGET DATE JANUARY 2006 to Submit Legislative Agenda Business to David King.

### **Summary LD Meeting #8 Action Items:**

| <b>Name</b>  | <b>Item</b>   |
|--------------|---|
| Brad Hibbs   | To check with Beth Alicondry (spelling?) on Model International Driver Education Approaches and Experience. Rob Foss may also have some additional information on this topic.   |
| Wyatt Mayhew | Need for a Controlled Pilot installation of Safety Edge, Wyatt & Mayhew get with Jeff Cox and Daniel Keel to see if candidate projects could include pilot safety edge construction. Goal aggregate of 20 to 25 miles of coverage.                          |
| Lacy         | J. Kevin Lacy to research status of Pooled Fund Request and provide update to Team during next Meeting October 19, 2005.  |
| Full Team    | Continue to Research and Provide Strategy Recommendations and Drafts  |
| Full Team    | Be Considering Potential Legislative Topics for Next Legislative Session  |
| Wyatt & Lacy | Get with Don Lee to discuss Strategy for Roadside Management; invite Don Lee to address Lane Departure group at next meeting. Need Draft Roadside Trees Strategy developed.   |
| Brad Hibbs   | Try to secure Mississippi rumblestripe video for next meeting.  |
| Full Team    | It was suggested that each member think about who could be added to this working group to bring new ideas to the table and help the group accomplish it's goals.<br><br>If anyone thinks of a potential new member, please invite them to the next meeting. |
| Wyatt        | Contact DPI Rep to Schedule Discussion on NC Drivers Ed Programs  |
| Full Team    | Continue to Research ideas for potential new strategies. Be prepared to discuss these at the next meeting and even bring a draft copy with you.   |

### **NEXT Lane Departure MEETING (#10):**

**October 26, 2005**

**1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**

**TMC Conference Room**